

Council highlights from the December 15, 2009 meeting

I. Committee Reports: Various teams have met with the Vision Team, it has gone very well.

II. Correspondence: Pastor Ben read a letter from International Alliance of Hope asking to hold a gospel concert/fund raiser at Comstock CRC on January 30, 2010 from 7:00—9:00 PM. Pastor Ben has met with this group. They are a Christian organization that seeks to rescue and restore victims of human trafficking in West Michigan and to prevent the future trafficking of women and children. Motion made and supported to have the concert here at our church.

III. Pulpit Supply: Jan. 3: AM - Dr. Wayne Brouwer; PM - Dr. Harry Arnold
Jan. 10: AM - Nicholas Hopkins; PM - Dan Gillette

IV. Unfinished Business: Added \$500.00 to 2009-2010 budget for Library - MMS.

V. Reviewed inclement weather protocol

VI. Reviewed our call as leaders - goals and strategies for elders and deacons.

Submitted by Jim Bosch



This is my church.
I make it what it is.
If I want it to be a church of hope,
faith and love, I must be hopeful,
faithful and loving.
It will be friendly and welcoming, if I am.
The pews will be filled if I am
here to fill to them.
I will do great work, if I work.
It will bring others into its worship and
fellowship, if I invite them.
Therefore, I dedicate myself to the task of
being what I want my church to be – for
the sake of Jesus and His Kingdom.
Amen

The Meaning of Christmas

By Jan Larkin 'with help' 2009

What's left to do?

We put away that great big Thanksgiving newspaper full of shopping ideas. We took the entire day to enjoy each other and the day was full of activities and closeness. We found out we didn't miss those flyers at all and they soon went into the fire. This set a precedence for the next few weeks and gave us a chance to prepare, with other people in mind and not so much ourselves. Change really is good.

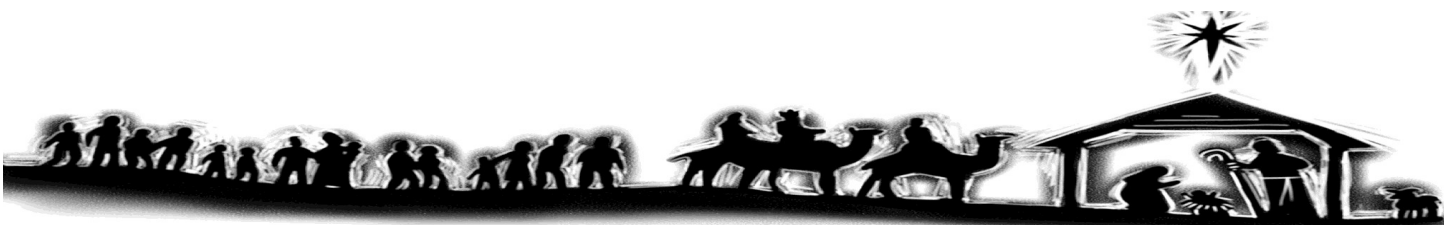
Now the decorating is done and the Christmas cards have been passed out. What a great idea to sit back and reflect on what the Christmas and the Advent season really means to me. It is good to worship at Comstock Reformed Church and hear the messages and see how our lives go from darkness to a better understanding of the light. What wonderful changes I've experienced and to see how that affects everyone around me, to watch the Holy Spirit work, powerfully guiding our actions and giving such hope for the future.

For me, Christmas is a time of waiting and what a wonderful gift I have been given again this year. It is a gift to feel so much love around me, from the pastor, to the leaders and friends that are willing to share God's word in a way that gives you such a desire for more. It is a gift to learn that we are all different, but with our heavenly father guiding us we can be corrected in love and gently reminded to think "what would Jesus have done or said." Then we can patiently wait on the Lord knowing he has a plan and a purpose for everything.

This Christmas has been a time of slowing down and deciding what is important and tossing some old attitudes and habits. This year I'm making it a point to celebrate more than ever what the season is really all about, to celebrate the birth of Jesus and the peace we can have, the peace that our Savior promises to all of us. I want to let everyone know what a difference God can make in their lives by sharing all the wonderful things He is doing in my life. Christmas is a time to celebrate the love and support we can give each other - some with financial troubles and some who aren't as merry as they should be, others who have lost loved ones or have been in the hospital. In some small way I can make a difference by letting Jesus be my voice. Talk about shouting Joy to the World the Lord has come. We can show kindness and good cheer to each other by remembering how strong we really are with Jesus' love. We need to remember these things not just at Christmas time but all through the year.

It's December 25th! Let's Celebrate! I'm looking forward to taking Hope, Love, Peace and Joy right into December 26th and throughout the entire year.

If we do this we will truly have something to celebrate.



Wise Men and Women Still Seek Him

NOTES FROM THE LIBRARY

Another new year is beginning, and - once again - I encourage you to check out the many devotional books we have in our library. You can find them on the library cart, in the display window, and on the library shelf marked "Devotionals". And remember, these books can be kept out for the whole year.

In addition, look for the following new books to appear on the cart in the foyer next week:

Treason, Hostage, and Defiance - *Don Brown's* trilogy, featuring JAG officer Zack Brewer, is loaded with in-

trigue, romance, suspense and courtroom drama. The author is a former JAG officer himself who weaves realistic storytelling with Christian faith, resulting in an enjoyable and satisfying read.

Green by *Ted Dekker* - The fourth book in the apocalyptic "Circle series", but it's also the beginning. **Green** brings full meaning to the "Circle series" as a whole, reading as both a prequel to **Black** and a sequel to **White**, completing a full circle. This is Book Zero, the Circle Reborn, both the beginning and the end. The pre-



Check out our library today!

ferred starting point for new readers - and the perfect climax for the countless fans who've experienced **Black, Red, and White** (all available in our library).




The List by *Robert Whitlow*

- A sudden death, tied to a list from the past, leads to unimaginable evil. Fresh out of law school and full of hope for the future, Renney Jacobson is stunned by the death of his father, but even more so by his mysterious bequest . . . a 140 - year-old covenant known as "the List".



*Start your new year
by keeping a journal
of your life.*

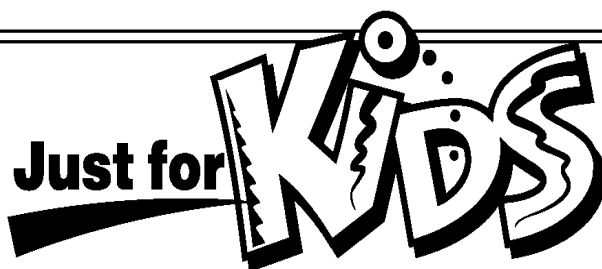
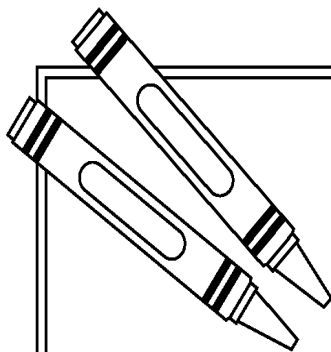
You will need:

-  a spiral notebook
-  contact paper
-  permanent marker



*How to make and use
your journal:*

- Use the contact paper to cover the front of the notebook.
- Put your name and a name for the journal on the cover.
- Decorate the cover with drawings or stickers.
- Each day (or once a week) write down your thoughts, prayers, poems, dreams and the date. You can also make drawings to go along with your writings.



New Year's Resolutions

Use the code to read some important words to live by.

CODE:	A=1	D=4	H=8	L=12	P=16	T=20	X=24
	B=2	E=5	I=9	M=13	Q=17	U=21	Y=25
	C=3	F=6	J=10	N=14	R=18	V=22	Z=26
		G=7	K=11	O=15	S=19	W=23	

8 1 22 5 14 15 15 20 8 5 18 7 15 4 19

2 5 6 15 18 5 13 5

8 15 14 15 18 25 15 21 18 6 1 20 8 5 18

1 14 4 13 15 20 8 5 18

4 15 14 20 13 9 19 21 19 5

7 15 4 19 14 1 13 5

11 5 5 16 20 8 5 19 1 2 2 1 20 8

8 15 12 25

12 5 1 18 14 20 8 5 20 5 14

3 15 13 13 1 14 4 13 5 14 20 19

Answer: Have no other gods before me. Honor your father and mother. Don't misuse God's name. Keep the Sabbath holy. Learn the Ten Commandments.

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR

January 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 YPS overnight retreat
3 AM - Dr. Wayne Brouwer PM - Dr. Harry Arnold	4	5	6 9:30 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 - GEMS & Cadets	7 1:00 - Power in Prayer 7:00 - Ladies Bible Study	8	9 6:30 - The Pulse (formerly known as KFC) MS youth
10 AM - Nicholas Hopkins PM - Singing Crusaders	11	12 7:00 - Council	13 9:30 - Layette 7:00 - Vision Team	14 1:00 - Power in Prayer	15	16
17 6:15 - YPS, Scott has supper	18	19	20 9:30 - Ladies Bible Study 6:30 - GEMS & Cadets	21 1:00 - Power in Prayer 7:00 - Ladies Bible Study	22	23
24	25	26	27 8:30 - Fellowship Breakfast at Theo & Stacy's	28 1:00 - Power in Prayer	29	30
31 6:15 - YPS, Matt has supper						



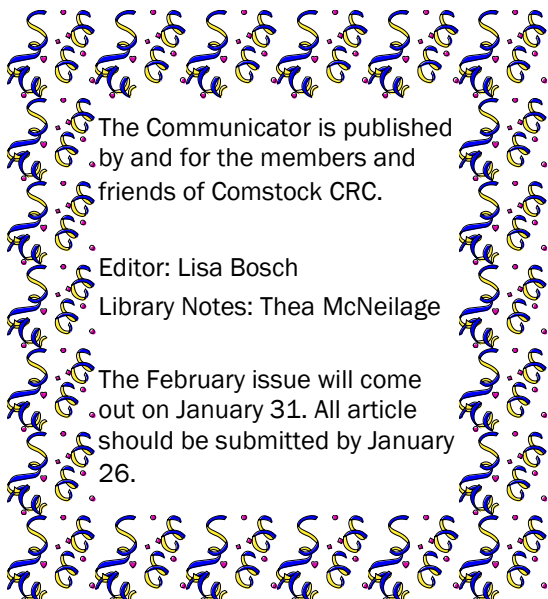
BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

4 Andy Selles
6 Lisa Bosch
11 Wanda Schaap
Joanne Dusseljee
12 Sean Brower
13 Edna Sipsma
14 Mark Smit
Cindy Amos
16 Tyler Meier
19 Stella Doorn
22 Greg Nowak
26 Lily Hulst



THIS MONTH'S ANNIVERSARIES

1/06/06 Dale & Deb Cramer
1/25/46 Art & Eleanor Meints
Congratulations on 64 years!



The Communicator is published
by and for the members and
friends of Comstock CRC.

Editor: Lisa Bosch
Library Notes: Thea McNeilage

The February issue will come
out on January 31. All article
should be submitted by January
26.

January Schedules

NURSERY

	<u>AM</u>	<u>PM</u>
1/3	Ronda & Ruth Slager	Rachel Slager
1/10	Karen Smit & Katelynn DeBruyn	Leah Brower
1/17	Mark & Julie Smit Family	Molly Selles
1/24	Mark & Kim Terpstra Family	Allison Bosch
1/31	Mike & Karen Tiesman Family	Joanne Smit

OFFERINGS

	<u>AM</u>	<u>PM</u>
1/3	General Fund/Christian Ed.	Missions
1/10	General Fund/Christian Ed.	Youth Unlimited
1/17	General Fund/Christian Ed.	Bethany Christian Services
1/24	General Fund/Christian Ed.	Missions
1/31	General Fund/Christian Ed.	Calvinist Cadet Corps

ACCOMPANISTS

	<u>AM</u>	<u>PM</u>
1/3	Barb Hassing	Linda French
1/10	Linda French	Singing Crusaders
1/17	Marty Schuiteboer	Joy Koning
1/24	Kay Triemstra	Barb Hassing
1/31	Linda French	Barb Hassing

LIBRARIANS

1/3 Thea McNeilage
1/10 Grace Slager
1/17 Grace Slager
1/24 Mardell Terpstra
1/31 Mardell Terpstra

WELCOME CENTER

Greg & Sueann Nowak
Julie Smit & Jan Larkin
Mike & Karen Tiesman
Dwain & Becky Cramer
Todd & Karen Triemstra

GREETERS

AM - Dave & Judy Joling
PM - Rod & Henrietta Linders

COFFEE SERVER

MaryLee Gosnell

SONG SERVICE LEADERS

1/3	Walt Cramer	1/10	Singing Crusaders
1/17	Jim Bosch	1/24	Pete DenHartigh
1/31	MaryLee Gosnell		

TECH TEAM

1/3 & 1/24 Jim & Tina Slager
1/10 & 1/31 Mark & Matt Terpstra
1/17 Scott & Seth Brower

USHERS

AM - Amanda DeBruyn & Seth Brower
PM - Rhonda Slager
VALET PARKING - Morrie French